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Miscellaneous File No. 243/39.
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Hongkew Station,

Date July 21, 1939.

Subject Reference attached ^{letter} containing complaints of a Mr. L. Imas.

Made by. D.S.I. Tuck,

Forwarded by.

Lucy W. H. H.

Sir,

During the morning of the 17/7/39 a telephone communication was received by the undersigned from Chief Inspector Hall of the S.M.P. Headquarters Traffic Department, reporting to the effect that a foreigner by the name of Imas was present inside the traffic office and making himself a nuisance by his persistent requests for assistance in connection with numerous offences of larceny including the theft of a M/truck and assaults which had already been reported to Hongkew Station and investigated, but the results not having been favourable to himself the foreigner had hoped to obtain satisfaction by demanding the assistance of the above office.

As no assistance could be rendered by the above office it was suggested that the foreigner concerned be referred to this station the undersigned having undertaken to personally investigate his complaints.

At about 11 a.m. 17/7/39, the foreigner concerned attended this station his particulars being:-

Mr. L. Imas, of Rumanian nationality, sole proprietor of The Shanghai Express Delivery Service, of Apt. 50, No. 153 Route des Soeurs, French Concession, who when asked to state his complaints, claimed that a number of offences had been committed against him by persons residing at House 202, Lane 57 Thorne Road, which premises he occupies and uses as a godown for storing luggage obtained in connection with his transportation concern.

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These alleged offences, which included, theft of various articles of furniture from the address, theft of petrol and malicious damage to tyres and inner tubes of the M/Trucks and assaults upon himself by inmates of this address, who have occupied same without his permission, have all been reported at various times to this station, D.S.I. Beloshenko or D.S. Fedoroff having investigated, but in each and every instance he had not received correct treatment or obtained satisfaction as some of the cases were alleged refused investigation.

D.S.I. Beloshenko and D.S. Fedoroff were each questioned concerning the above allegations, when it was learned that Mr. L. Imas is a very wilful and vindictive minded person and inclined to grossly prevaricate and exaggerate incidents involving himself, in order that the persons against whom his complaints are directed will be punished as severely as possible and thus he desires to obtain satisfaction. Complaints and offences recorded and investigated are as follows:-

On the 20/1/39, the complainant attended Hongkew Station and made a report that a number of persons were residing inside his premises No.57/20 Thorne Road without his permission, some of whom were criminals and others prostitutes, therefore he demanded their immediate eviction. The Complainant's complaints not being substantiated in any manner whatsoever he was advised to obtain assistance from the S.S.D.Court regarding their eviction if ^{he} still required same. (Entered Occurrence Book)

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During the 25/2/30 an exactly similar complaint was made with like results. (Entered Occurrence Book).

At about 5 p.m. 9/4/30, (Russian Easter) Mr. L. Inas came to the Station and reported that three metal bath tubs and a quantity of metal piping had been stolen from the compound of No. 57/20 Thorne Road and alleged the inmates of the address responsible for the offence. S. S. I. Bolodshenko and P. P. I. 140 investigated the matter and ascertained that the bath tubs had been removed from an address at Wankell Road, formerly occupied by Mr. L. Inas, but just after the commencement of the recent hostilities the premises was burnt down and completely gutted, however the complainant was able to collect the metal property concerned and have it deposited outside neighbouring premises to No. 57/20 Thorne Road; this address being occupied by a Japanese family. In these articles appeared nothing more or less than scrap metal, the male Japanese tenant had repeatedly informed Inas to have the rubbish removed if he was the owner of same and prevent the alleyway from being cluttered up, eventually threatening to employ some workmen to dump the stuff concerned in the Hongkew Creek just to get rid of it. After this property had remained there for about one year it disappeared and the report of the disappearance was not made to the Station until the elapse of some considerable time, which was selected to be Russian Easter, when Mr. Inas alleged that the residents at the address No. 57/20 Thorne Road were making merry and

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celebrating the occasion with the money proceeds obtained as the result of the offence.

Prior to the above report Mr. L. Imas had been to the Station and requested D.S.I. Beloshenko to evict the persons from the premises, and each occasion was advised to proceed to the S.S.D. Court as the S.M.P. had no powers by which they could evict these persons, therefore after due enquiries and no evidence obtained to substantiate the allegations of theft it was deemed that the real intention of L. Imas was only to have the persons evicted from the premises, as on Russian Easter it is usual for all persons of that nationality to celebrate the occasion and to share wine and food with each other, therefore he deliberately made this report to at least cause embarrassment and inconvenience to the persons concerned who are all of very poor circumstances.

An offence in which a gold watch was stolen from No. 50/27 Thorne Road, ^{and} recovered, is recorded on Hongkew Station P.I.R. No. 447/39 dated 29/6/39, a female Portuguese subject is at present being prosecuted for the offence, the case not yet having been concluded. D.S. Fedoroff investigated.

A further offence of assault made by the complainant L. Imas, being recorded on Hongkew Station P.I.R. 456/39 dated 3/7/39, being investigated by D.S.I. Beloshenko, when it was learned that the injuries sustained by the complainant, which were of a trivial nature was the result of his own actions he being

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abusive to an employee a Mr. S.T. Lensky, Russian, which subsequently led to accusations of theft being made against Mr. Lensky, ~~which~~ ^{and} resulted in a quarrel then an exchange of blows and the resultant minor injuries to both parties. Firstly the report of assault was made against all the inmates of No. 57/20 Thorne Road, each person resident there being mentioned individually by name, but after the enquiries had been completed and Mr. L. Imas informed of the result of same, he admitted that he had exaggerated the case in order to support a charge of misappropriation which he had made against Mr. S.T. Lensky at Central Station. Enquiries made at the station concerned ascertained that repeated allegations of a similar nature have been made by the complainant but in each case was refused investigation due to lack of proof to substantiate the charges.

Mr. L. Imas on this occasion was advised that if he was dissatisfied with the result of the enquiries and as no further Police action would be taken ~~he was advised~~ to institute Private Criminal Prosecution against the offender at the S.S.C. Court, (Such a prosecution is believed to have been already instituted).

In connection with the above complaints a letter had been received at this Station on the 13/7/39, which is addressed to the Commissioner of Police, dated July 7th, 1939, and signed L. Imas. (Letter attached hereto).

This letter contains brief particulars of the thefts and incidents listed above and that D.S.I. Beloshenko

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has been approached in order to have the persons whom complaint has been made against, evicted from the premises, but as for nothing has been done about it.

In view of the above and to appease or give satisfaction to the complainant that these matters had been fully investigated, D.S. Wedroff and the undersigned accompanied by Mr. Imas proceeded to House No. 20, Lane 57 Thorne Road, and found it to be a large two storied Chinese styled dwelling house, having a total of nine rooms, seven of which are at present occupied by poor foreign families or singly.

Each occupant of a room pays a monthly rental of between \$17.00 and \$20.00, thus the total rent that will be collected for this month will approximate \$130.00.

Mr. Imas insisted in the presence of these tenants that he has never given permission for them to reside on the premises, and that they entered during his absence whilst he was absent attending to his transportation business, and since then they have failed to leave the premises.

The inmates when questioned explained that Mr. J. Imas does not reside on the premises, but has allowed them to occupy certain rooms at an agreed rental, this money being collected by a male Chinese named Zui Ah Chang (趙阿祥), who is employed during the day by the complainant to work as coolie on one of the m/trucks whilst in use in connection with the transportation business, during the night-times he is allowed to

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sleep on the premises, having been supplied a small room free of charge, on condition that he monthly collects the rentals, which are handed over to the complainant and written receipts given to the coolie who in turn hands them to the persons concerned.

A series of such receipts all signed by Mr. L. Imas were produced for inspection of detectives investigating.

A Mr. F. Richter, Yugo-Slavian, employed as a musician and the complainant in Hongkew Station N.I.R. No. 447/39, has been residing on the premises for over one year and monthly has paid a rental of \$20.00.

A Mr. S. T. Lensky, M/Russian, was for a period of nine months until the 6th of July 1939, employed by the complainant as a M/Truck chauffeur at a monthly wage of \$90.00, and as Mr. Lensky and his wife were supplied with rooms at the above address ~~of which~~ \$20.00, was the understood rental for same, which was always considered to have been deducted from the wages, actually Mr. Lensky never has in any one month received the agreed wages, sometimes only receiving as little as \$35.00 from the complainant, this therefore has led to the frequent disturbances and allegations by the complainant against Mr. Lensky, evidently used as a means to intimidate him into accepting whatever is offered in regards to wages.

The other occupied rooms have only been tenanted for shorter periods, but each with an agreed rental.

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The ground floor room, entirely separated from the others is used as a godown, for storing bags, boxes and trunks, it being heavily boarded around with a thick metal cross-bar over the entire of the door, which is secured by a strong lock and hasp, so it is impossible for any persons to gain entrance without the key to the lock or strong instruments with which to prise the wood or cross-bar from the doors or windows, therefore the complainant's report of jeopardizing the safety of the articles stored there is rather exaggerated. At the time of this visit there was three medium sized trunks in this godown and a considerable quantity of rubbish, lengths of wood and paper, etc., the godown would hardly enable the storage of baggage to the extent of some tons of thousands of dollars as averred in the letter.

Damaged inner tubes of a M/Truck were produced, but it is very evident that they are in a very old state, caused through continuous wear and usage, the rents or tears being very irregular and definitely not the result of an instrument used maliciously to cause the damage.

As for the theft of petrol and the M/Truck no proof was available to substantiate such allegations as the M/Truck referred to is used by the complainant to transport merchandise and baggage to the interior and is at present being used for such a purpose.

Mr. L. Imas firstly claimed that he resides in

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the premises, but the inmate stated that he has never once slept in the premises since they have been residing there, the affairs of the house being left entirely to the coolie on duty (王阿四). The complainant then stated that he has obtained a lease from Mr. Wayne employed by Tiger & Co., 100 Cannon House, Jinkoo Road, also an inventory of the articles of furniture left behind by the original Chinese owner who vacated the premises at the outbreak of the recent hostilities, some of which have allegedly been stolen.

The complainant was asked to produce the lease and inventory, in order that same may be checked, but he has failed to do so.

Inquiries made of Tiger & Co. ascertained that the complainant does possess a lease for the premises, which lease was commenced February 1938 with a monthly rental of \$30.00.

From the above it is fairly apparent that the complainant not realising the increased demand for rooms and also the high rentals that can be asked for, has mainly caused these reports to be made to the Station in the hope that the present occupants will be evicted, he then can operate a foreign styled boarding house, at a very much increased rental and thus benefit greatly over his present endeavours in that line.

In view of the foregoing it is very obvious that Mr. L. Liao is an exceptionally unpleasant and obnoxious person, being desirous only of benefiting himself. He

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will go to extremes, such as making false allegations if there is a slight possibility of benefiting himself in anywise, and the more disturbance he causes the more his satisfaction if his endeavours have been frustrated, therefore any persons of whom he complains or reports to the S.M.P. should be treated with the greatest of circumspection as he is likely to headlessly involve other persons into possible serious difficulties.

This report being respectfully submitted for consideration in reply to the contents of the attached letter.

D. S. I.

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D.C. (Sp. Branch).